



Chicago Housing Authority's Work Requirement

HUD Regional Conference
May 28, 2008

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Agenda

- Brief Plan for Transformation Overview
- Work Requirement
 - Mixed Income/Mixed Finance
 - Traditional and Rehabbed Public Housing
- Supportive Services



State of the CHA in 1999

- 25,450 units out of 39,000 were occupied
- Public housing was considered a blight on neighborhoods
- Residents of CHA units were cut off from the rest of Chicago physically, economically and socially
- Residents of CHA units faced multiple barriers to self-sufficiency
- Mayor Richard M. Daley agreed to take control of CHA from HUD, with stipulations
 - HUD support for the Plan for Transformation
 - Funding Commitments for the Plan
 - Flexible Funding



Goals of the Plan for Transformation

- **Housing**
To build or rehabilitate 25,000 public housing units.
- **Residents**
To reintegrate individuals and families into the fabric of the city and to provide opportunities for self-sufficiency.
- **Neighborhoods**
To remove blight, encourage revitalization and create successful mixed-income communities.



CHA Plan for Transformation Update

- 15,138 units demolished to date
 - Including 11,690 high rise units
- 16,172 public housing units complete (65% complete) as of Dec. 31, 2007:
 - 8,896 units for seniors (94% complete)
 - 2,543 scattered site units (100% complete)
 - 2,275 rehabilitated units in traditional public housing developments (43% complete)
 - 2,456 family units in new mixed-income developments (32% complete)



Work Requirement – Mixed Income (HOPE VI)

- Site specific criteria are developed by a working group at each site and most mixed income developments include a work requirement.
- Head of Household ages 18 to 61 required to work at least 30 hours per week.
- Residents who do not comply with the work requirement may be subject to lease termination.



Work Requirement – Traditional Public Housing

- All adults ages 18 to 61 living in traditional public housing developments will be required to work, or be engaged in activities that will lead to work, for at least 15 hours per week.
 - Anyone who is 17 and not attending school full-time must also meet the work requirement.
- Requirement begins early this fall. Starting January 1, 2010, the work requirement increases to 20 hours per week.
- Residents who do not comply with the work requirement, and are not exempt or covered by Safe Harbor, will be subject to lease termination.



Work Requirement – Exemptions

- Residents are exempt if they are:
 - Age 62 or older
 - Blind or disabled
 - The primary caretaker of someone who is blind or disabled
 - Retired and receiving a pension
 - Single parent and primary caretaker for a child or children aged one or under
 - Primary caretaker of a child or children under age 13, in households with two or more adults where one parent is working
 - Receiving TANF and have an active Responsibility and Services Plan



Work Requirement – Eligible Activities

- Employment
- Attendance in an accredited school, institution, training program or job readiness program
- Attendance in a GED or literacy program
- Internship or work experience opportunity
- Limited volunteer or community services
 - No more than half of the required hours, and only during the first two years



Work Requirement – Safe Harbor

- A resident may request Safe Harbor consideration when he or she is making a good faith effort but is unable to comply with the work requirement. Some examples include:
 - Awaiting the approval of SSI/SSDI
 - Suffering from a temporary medical condition
 - Recent separation from employment
 - Participation in an active DCFS plan where participation is time consuming
 - Victim of domestic violence
 - Caregiver for a victim of violence
 - Attempted but unable to find adequate child care to allow work
- Safe Harbor status must be resolved or reauthorized every 90 days
- Residents denied Safe Harbor can use the CHA's residents grievance process



Work Requirement – Implementation

- Work Requirement Policy included in both ACOP and Lease
 - ACOP and Lease approved by board December 2007.
- Request to implement work requirement included in Amended and Restated Moving to Work Agreement
 - CHA has signed
 - Awaiting final HUD approval
- Implementation on track for early Fall 2008
 - Designing and scheduling training for CHA staff, Property Managers, and Service Providers
 - Adding tracking module to YARDI
- Compliance will be determined at annual resident recertification



Work Requirement – Resources

- The work requirement is not punitive.
- Resources for success are available.
 - Job training, job placement and transitional job programs
 - Literacy programs, GED and other educational programs
 - Childcare
 - Drug treatment programs
 - Others
- Engagement with a provider is not mandatory but residents are encouraged to take advantage of these programs while they are available.



\$25M Per Year in CHA Funds for Social Services

In communities to which residents temporarily or permanently relocate we work with partners to offer:

Case Management and Housing Counseling Assistance

- FamilyWorks (formerly Service Connector)
- Relocation and Housing counseling
- Supportive Services for seniors and families

Children and Youth Services

- After school Programming
- Summer Opportunities – Camps and Jobs
- Dual Enrollment program with City Colleges
- Scholarships
- Links to Early Care and Education programming – Child Care, Head Start & Pre-K
- Recreation Activities at the Chicago Park District

Workforce Development Services and Supports

- Contextualized Literacy and Employment Programs
- Basic job training and placement services
- Bridge Programs
- Education and Technical Training at City Colleges
- Transitional Jobs
- Linkage to MOWD's WIA services
- Assistance finding child care

Other Supports

- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Utility Assistance
- Transportation





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